

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAM-01 SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10 SS-20 IO-14 OIC-04 AEC-11

OMB-01 DRC-01 EB-11 NIC-01 /178 W

----- 114752

P R 091240Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1552

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 1144

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR

PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 8, 1974

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE VIENNA MBFR TALKS THIS WEEK, INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS BEGAN BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN REPS CONCERNING THE ALLIED PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL TO START TALKING ABOUT US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS. ALTHOUGH EASTERN REPS TOOK NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TO THE PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL, ITSELF, THEY ENDORSED THE INFORMAL DISCUSSION FORMAT AND ANOTHER MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR NEXT WEEK. ROMANIAN REP COMPLAINED

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TO US REP THAT THE PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL HAD BEEN

ADVANCED AT AN INFORMAL GATHERING AT WHICH THE ROMANIANS WERE NOT PRESENT. THERE WAS ONLY ONE PLENARY THIS WEEK WITH ONLY ONE SPEAKER, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV. HE STRESSED FAMILIAR EASTERN THEMES. END SUMMARY.

1. AT THE PLENARY SESSION ON 5 FEBRUARY, SOVIET REP KHLESTOV SPOKE FOR THE EASTERN SIDE. CHARGING THAT THE WEST WAS SEEKING TO GAIN MILITARY ADVANTAGE FROM THE FORCE REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS, KHLESTOV WENT ON TO STRESS TWO OF THE EAST'S CONSTANT THEMES AT THIS NEGOTIATING ROUND. FIRST OF ALL, KHLESTOV MAINTAINED THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS MUST TAKE PART IN REDUCTIONS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. ONLY THE US HAS SO FAR SAID THAT IT IS READY TO BE INCLUDED IN REDUCTIONS FROM THE START, HE CONTINUED, AND THE EAST HAS THEREFORE BEGUN TO SUSPECT THAT THE WEST EUROPEANS MAY BE TRYING TO EVADE REDUCTIONS. KHLESTOV'S SECOND MAJOR THEME WAS THAT ALL TYPES OF ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE MUST BE INCLUDED IN REDUCTIONS ON ACCOUNT OF THEIR CLOSE INTERCONNECTION. AIR FORCES AND UNITS EQUIPPED WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS MUST BE REDUCED AS WELL AS GROUND FORCES.

2. BY THE AFTERNOON OF 5 FEBRUARY, PORTIONS OF KHLESTOV'S SPEECH HAD BEEN LEAKED TO THE PRESS, THE FIRST SUCH LEAK SINCE THOSE FOLLOWING THE EASTERN SIDE'S PRESENTATION OF ITS PROPOSAL IN THE FALL. ALLIED EVALUATION OF THE KHLESTOV'S SPEECH WAS DIVIDED. SOME THOUGHT IT SHOWED FLEXIBILITY ON THE QUESTIONS OF PHASING AND OF A COMMON CEILING. OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THE BRITISH, SAW VIRTUALLY NO FLEXIBILITY IN THE SPEECH AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS IN FACT MORE COMBATIVE IN TONE THAN PREVIOUS STATEMENTS.

3. CONTACTS WITH POLISH REPS DURING THE WEEK DID SHOW SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE POLES AS REGARDS PHASING. SPEAKING TO US REPS, POLISH REP STRULAK APPEARED WILLING TO CONSIDER A TWO-PHASE APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS, ALTHOUGH HE STRESSED THE SECRET

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NEED FOR SPECIFIC ASSURANCES CONCERNING PHASE TWO. STRULAK ALSO SHOWED A SMALL AMOUNT OF GIVE ON THE QUESTION OF A COMMON CEILING, AT THE SAME TIME POINTING TO THE CONCEPT'S DEFICIENCIES. ACHIEVING A COMMON CEILING WOULD REQUIRE EXCESSIVE REDUCTIONS OF EASTERN FORCES, ACCORDING TO STRULAK. FURTHERMORE, AS CONCEIVED BY THE WEST, THE COMMON CEILING DOES NOT INCLUDE AIR AND NUCLEAR

FORCES. VISITING LONDON LAST WEEK, POLISH VICE
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BISZTYQA IMPLIED THAT
HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE EAST MIGHT ULTIMATELY HAVE

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OMB-01 DRC-01 EB-11 NIC-01 /178 W

----- 114741

P R 091240Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1553

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 57

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 1144

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

TO ACCEPT THE WESTERN TWO-PHASE APPROACH TO THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE INFORMAL MEETING BETWEEN SOVIET, POLISH,
AND CZECH REPS ON THE EASTERN SIDE AND US, BRITISH,
AND BELGIAN REPS ON THE WESTERN SIDE ON 6 FEBRUARY
HAD MIXED RESULTS. KHESTOV SAID THE PROCEDURAL
PROPOSAL OF THE WEST TO BEGIN TALKING ABOUT US AND
SOVIET GROUND FORCE REDUCTIONS WAS UNFAIR AND IM-
PRACTICAL. HE THOUGHT IT UNFAIR BECAUSE IT WOULD
PUT EASTERN REPS IN A POSITION WHERE THEY WOULD BE
TALKING SOLELY ABOUT ASPECTS OF THE WESTERN PRO-

POSAL IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, WITHOUT BEING ABLE
TO STRESS IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL.
HE THOUGHT IT IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE IT WOULD NOT
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LEAD EFFECTIVELY TO SOLUTIONS OF THE PROBLEMS FACED
BY THE NEGOTIATORS. ELEMENTS OF BOTH EASTERN AND
WESTERN PROPOSALS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IF COMPROMISES
WERE TO BE FOUND, AND THE EASTERN SIDE THOUGHT THAT
FUTURE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED ON
THAT BASIS. HOWEVER, KHLESTOV STRESSED THAT HIS
SIDE WAS FULLY IN FAVOR OF THE INFORMAL MULTILATERAL
CONTACTS AND HOPED THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE. IN
GENERAL, THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING WAS GOOD, AND
IT ENDED WITH THE US REP SUGGESTING THAT ANOTHER
INFORMAL SESSION BE HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY. THE ROMANIAN
REP CALLED ON THE US REP ON FEBRUARY 8 TO PROTEST THE
FACT THAT ALLIED PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL HAD BEEN
RAISED IN AN INFORMAL GATHERING AT WHICH THE ROMANINAS
WERE NOT PRESENT RATHER THAN IN A PLENARY SESSION OR
OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP TO WHICH THE ROMANIANS COULD
HAVE ACCESS.

5. ASSESSMENT: THE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE
OTHER SIDE HAVE BEGUN AS WELL AS COULD BE EXPECTED.
THE SOVIETS, BY EXPLICITLY ENDORSING THE MULTILATERAL
FORUM, HAVE ACQUIESCED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
INFORMAL FORUM WHICH CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY EXPLORE
THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS PROCEDURE-
AL ADVNACE IS THREATENED BY THE ATTITUDE OF THE
ROMAINAINS, TURKS, AND ALSO THE BELGIANS AND THE FORUM
WILL CONTINUE ONLY PRECARIOUSLY. AT NEXT WEEK'S
MEETING, THE ALLIES WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE
DISUCSSION OF THE WESTERN PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL WITH
THE EASTERN SIDE TO DETERMINE IF THEIR NEGATIVE
REACTION IS DEFINITIVE. THE WEST WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
ENTER INTO DISCUSSION OF OTHER TOPICS WITHOUT A RE-
EXAMINATION BY THE AD HOC GROUP OF THE INFORMAL DIS-
CUSSION ARRANGEMENTS. THE BELGIANS AND TURKS HAVE
MADE IT PLAIN THAT THEY WILL INSIST ON SUCH A RE-

ASSESSMENT WHEN DISCUSSION SEEMS TO BE MOVING BEYOND
THE WESTERN PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL. THERE WAS ONLY ONE
PLEANRY THIS WEEK, BUT THAT WAS THE CASE LARGELY
BECAUSE THE WESTERN SIDE DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE
STATEMENT THAT HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED FOR
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THURSDAY. NEXT WEEK WILL BE A TRUER TEST OF EASTERN
WILLINGNESS TO EDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES AS
SUGGESTED BY THE WEST IN ORDER TO CREATE MORE TIME
FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS. POLISH REP STRULAK CAST
DOUBT ON THAT WILLINGNESS THIS WEEK BY REMARKING
THAT IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR A WHILE TO STICK TO TWO
PLEANRIES A WEEK BUT TO HAVE ONLY ONE SPEAKER AT
EACH TO PERMIT A CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE VIEWS
PRESENTED.HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY, AGREEMENT DRAFT, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES, PEACE TALKS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, A RMS CONTROL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENNA01144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740243/aaaabomc.tel
Line Count: 234
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD ENDING FEBRUARY 8, 1974
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005